



MEDIA RELEASE
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Contact: Thomas P. Colantuono
United States Attorney
Mark E. Howard
Assistant U.S. Attorney
(603) 225-1552

PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

FORMER SOMERSWORTH MAN GUILTY OF FIREARM POSSESSION

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE – United States Attorney for the District of New Hampshire Tom Colantuono, Somersworth Police Chief Dean Crombie, and United States Drug Enforcement Administration Resident Agent in Charge Leo Ducey, announce that Jason Coles, formerly of Somersworth, pleaded guilty today in federal court in Concord, New Hampshire, before United States District Court Chief Judge Paul Barbadoro to a charge of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Coles was originally arrested in Somersworth, NH on April 28, 2003, on drug-related charges and has been held without bail since that time. Later, evidence revealed that Coles had a firearm hidden in a rental car. The firearm, a Raven MP 25, was recovered with the assistance of Nashua Police.

A sentencing hearing has been set for June 17, 2004, before Chief Judge Paul Barbadoro.

In commenting on the plea, United States Attorney Colantuono stated, "Every time we take away a gun from a convicted felon is another victory for Project Safe Neighborhoods and the citizens of New Hampshire."

Project Safe Neighborhoods is a federal program to reduce gun violence in New Hampshire by aggressive investigation and prosecution of firearm offenders, education of the public and training of law enforcement officers about firearms laws.

United States Attorney Colantuono thanked the Somersworth Police and the DEA for their extraordinary efforts in the case. He also extended his appreciation to the Portsmouth Police and Nashua Police for their assistance in the investigation. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark Howard

